Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03464 210951Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------009857 210957Z /16
O 210900Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1428

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3464

NODIS CHEROKEE

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA

1. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF DR OWEN'S MEETINGS WITH JOSHUA NKOMO, SHOWN ME BY JOHNNY GRAHAM.

2. EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD RECENTLY CONFIRMS THE VIEW THAT NKOMO STANDS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE OTHER ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS. PRESIDENT KHAMA CONFIRMED THIS YESTERDAY. WE KNOW KAUNDA BELIEVES IT, AS DOES NETO. FROM COMMENTS IN MAPUTO FROM VIEIRA I THINK EVEN MACHEL PROBABLY DOES. MOST OF THE WHITES IN RHODESIA BELIEVE A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT WITHOUT HIM. THE OTHER NATIONALIST LEADERS, OF COURSE, FEAR AND DISTRUST HIM, BUT RESPECT HIS FORCEFUL PERSONALITY.

3. BOTH JOHN GRAHAM AND I BELIEVE THAT CHINAMANO'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT OVERSTATES THE CASE. IT IS NOT GOING WELL, BUT IT IS FAR FROM FALLING APART AND HE IGNORES AN IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03464 210951Z

POINT. IF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS ARE NOT GIVEN WHAT THEY CONSIDER A FAIR CHANCE IN AN ELECTION OR A SETTLEMENT (NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT), THEY WILL CERTAINLY GO THROUGH WITH THE MARCH 3 PLAN MODIFYING DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION, HOLDING THEIR ELECTION AND INSTALLING A NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL SUPPORT EVEN IF IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STAND UP OVER THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

LONG TERM AGAINST A PATRIOTIC FRONT SUPPORTED BY THE
FRONTLINE AND COMMUNISTS.

4. NKOMO IS UNDERTAKING AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT. HE
APPEARS TO WANT TO ORGANIZE THE SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF
HIS PERSONAL FORCE AND FRONTLINE SUPPORT. IN MY VIEW, IT
WILL TAKE MORE THAN THIS. HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO PAY A
HIGHER PRICE THAN HE HAS SO FAR INDICATED HE IS WILLING
TO DO. I DO NOT BELIEVE MUZOREWA WILL COME ALONG JUST
BECAUSE HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT. HE WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN SOMETHING.
(I KEEP WONDERING WHETHER THAT COULDN'T BE TITULAR
PRESIDENT WITH NKOMO HAVING THE REAL POWER AS PRIME MINISTER).
IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT NKOMO HAS IN MIND WITH REGARD TO MUGABE
AND TONGOGARA. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE HE HAD A HAND IN THE
REVOLT OF HAMADZIRIPI, GUMBO, MUDZI, ETC., WHICH
FAILED. THIS TIME HIS INTENTIONS APPEAR SOMEWHAT MORE
HONORABLE SINCE HE WANTS TO WORK THROUGH MACHEL THOUGH THERE
MAY BE MORE TO IT THAN THIS. (THERE IS A REPORT THAT TINY
ROWLAND WAS INVOLVED IN THE HAMADZIRIPI AFFAIR.) THERE
APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MANY DEFECTIONS LATELY FROM MUZOREWA TO
MUGABE INSIDE RHODESIA. THUS, IT IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT
FOR NKOMO TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON MUGABE TONGOGARA AT A TIME
WHEN THEY ARE FEELING GROWING STRENGTH, EVEN IF NKOMO
HAS MACHEL'S HELP. USE OF NETO BY NKOMO FOR SUPPORT IS
INTERESTING. THEY ARE OLD FRIENDS AND THEIR LONG-STANDING
CONFIDENTIAL

RELATIONSHIP WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY THE SOVIET COMMITMENT
TO BOTH OF THEM AND THEIR MUTUAL DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET
MATERIAL SUPPORT. IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO
SEE HOW NKOMO CAN TURN NETO'S INFLUENCE ON MACHEL INTO
EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON MUGABE AND TONGOGARA.

5. I SEE ONLY TWO CONCERNS IN FURTHER PURSUIT OF NKOMO'S
PROPOSAL. THE PLAN HE OUTLINES WILL TAKE MORE TIME THAN WE
HAD ENVISAGE. HE IS TALKING ABOUT A CONFERENCE IN AUGUST.
I AM CONCERNED THAT IF WE DO NOT HAVE A CONFERENCE LINED UP
IN JULY THE OPPORTUNITY MAY PASS US BY AND THE TWO SIDES BE
COMMITTED INEXORABLY TO CONFRONTATION PATHS. MY OTHER
CONCERN IS OVER OUR INVOLVEMENT IN A PROPOSAL WHICH COULD DELAY
ELECTIONS FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS. HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM
WILL REALLY BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE BRITISH THAN FOR US
BECAUSE OF THEIR "FIFTH PRINCIPLE" AND BECAUSE THEY WILL
HAVE TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO VALIDATE THE PLAN,
SINCE THEY WILL HAVE TO CLOTHE IT WITH LEGALITY.
BUT WE WOULD BE INVOLVED THROUGH OUR SPONSORSHIP OF A
CONFERENCE THAT RATIFIED IT. NEVERTHELESS I BELIEVE PEACE
AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALL PARTIES WOULD BE WORTH THE PRICE.
ALL-PARTIES AGREEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY BE STRONG INDICATION

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OF BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT WORK
IF A SIGNIFICANT GROUP (EITHER MUZOREWA OR ZANU/MUGABE)
STAYED OUT. SITHOLE OR CHIRAU WOULD NOT BE AS CRUCIAL.

6. IN SPITE OF THE FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES BLOCKING NKOMO'S
PLAN AND THE CONCERNS IT RAISES, IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT
SUCH EXPLORATIONS ARE UNDERWAY. THEY GIVE EVIDENCE OF A DESIRE
FOR ACCOMMODATION AND CREATE A FLUIDITY WHICH CAN BENEFIT OUR
OWN EFFORTS. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE DR. OWEN AND
NKOMO TO PURSURE HIS PLAN.

7. WHETHER OR NOT NKOMO IS SUCCESSFUL, THERE WILL HAVE TO
BE AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT WE
SHOULD PUSH AHEAD IN OUR EFFORTS TO CONVENE AN ALL-PARTIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRETOR 03464 210951Z

MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS EFFORT, JOHN AND I
WILL CONCENTRATE ON WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE SOFTER
SPOTS OF THE PICTURE. THESE ARE THE SOUTH AFRICANS WHOM WE
WILL SEE ON WEDNESDAY, IN PRETORIA AND, IN SALISBURY,
IAN AND DAVID SMITH AND MUZOREWA. I BELIEVE THE PRESSURE
ON THEM IS GROWING AND THAT WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS DURING THE
FORTHCOMING WEEK. A TWO-TRACK EFFORT IS DESIRABLE. IF
NKOMO SUCCEEDS, WE HAVE THE CONFERENCE READY. IF HE
DOESN'T, WE WILL HAVE TO GO AHEAD WITH OUR PLAN TO
FASHION AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES FROM A
MODIFIED ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.
EDMONDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NATIONALISTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 06/21/78
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840150-2318
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780635/aaaabegx.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b7443984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2264648
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b7443984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014